United Nations S/2018/1108

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 December 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 11 December 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to bring to your attention the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the sixth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), contained in document S/2018/1089, as follows:

(a) The statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), which is reflected in the annex to document S/2015/550, and the positions contained therein, are reiterated once more, as they are relevant today as they were before;

(b) Since the previous report of the Secretary-General, the United States of America has reintroduced and reimposed all its unlawful unilateral sanctions that had been lifted on 16 January 2016 consistent with Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), in a material breach of its obligation to "refrain from re-introducing or re-imposing" them. Those sanctions, following its unwarranted and unlawful decision to impulsively withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, constitute multiple wrongful acts which, among others, flagrantly violate paragraphs 1, 2 and 10 of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) and the commitments contained in paragraphs 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32 and 33 of its annex A, and deliberately flout paragraphs 2, 4, 5 and 6 of its annex B;

(c) The Secretary-General has rightly expressed in his report that the United States' sanctions "do not advance the goals set out in the Plan and resolution 2231 (2015)". However, the report disappointingly failed to provide an assessment of how seriously they violate the resolution, including its annexes, or affect its implementation as a whole. The United States has upped its contempt for a multilaterally negotiated agreement endorsed by and attached to a Security Council resolution in an unprecedented way by also coercing other States to violate it in defiance of Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations;

(d) The Secretary-General provided that "it is essential that the Plan continue to work for all its participants, including by delivering tangible economic benefits to the Iranian people". This, however, underestimates the broad commitments of the E3+3 under Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as they are committed to lifting all nuclear-related sanctions as well as to carrying out certain other obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, such as refraining "from any policy specifically intended to directly and

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adversely affect the normalisation of trade and economic relations with Iran". As a matter of fact, Iran is being chastised because it insists on genuinely implementing its undertakings under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. We regret that the report fails to call out the culprit and to hold it to account for its whimsical, wrongful action;

(e) The United States' unilateral coercive measures in the form of financial and economic sanctions, as "unlawful" and "illegitimate" as they are, run also counter to the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice on 3 October 2018 (S/2018/899, annex). The Court ordered the United States to remove impediments arising from the measures announced following its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action since they have a serious detrimental impact on the health and lives of individuals. Those sanctions victimize civilians indiscriminately at a scale amounting to crimes against humanity by targeting the population's basic human rights, in particular the right to health and the right to food, which endangers their very right to life. It should be reminded in this context that the United States Secretary of State just recently threatened all Iranians to mass starvation (S/2018/1057). The Secretariat was expected to include the order by the principal judicial organ of the United Nations in the report of the Secretary-General as a significant development regarding the sanctions of the United States, which are also contrary to its obligations under the resolution and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action;

(f) The United States sanctions, including the designation of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, impair the civil cooperation projects permitted by paragraph 21 of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), as well as its annex A, with regard to both the Fordow facility and the Arak reactor. Those projects constitute some of the main pillars of the functioning of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and resolution 2231 (2015). Taking into account the negative impacts of such sanctions, the Secretariat was expected to include it in the report of the Secretary-General;

(g) The report once again has focused "on the provisions set forth in annex B to resolution 2231 (2015)", against the requirement of paragraph 7 of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2016/44). As elaborated in the letters dated 17 July 2016 (S/2016/626), 18 January 2017 (S/2017/51), 29 June 2017 (S/2017/560), 19 December 2017 (S/2017/1075), and 26 June 2018 (S/2018/634) from the Islamic Republic of Iran, any report on the implementation of the resolution shall consider the commitments of all participants of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as well as the obligations of other States for the implementation of the resolution, including its operative paragraph 2;

(h) I would like to reiterate the call by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 19 December 2017 (S/2017/1075) and 26 June 2018 (S/2018/634) upon the Security Council and the Secretary-General to consider concrete guarantees to ensure effective and functional implementation of the "case by case" authorization mechanisms set forth in paragraphs 4 to 6 of annex B. The status quo, that not even a single authorization has been granted by the Security Council, mainly due to the United States' bullying and wrongful acts, has rendered those mechanisms as well as the Secretary-General's reporting on related paragraphs meaningless;

(i) We express our serious disappointment with respect to paragraphs 10, 11, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 27 of the report, which imply the Secretariat's continued engagement, contrary to its mandate as defined in paragraphs 6 and 10 of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2016/44), in verification trips "to examine" allegations regarding implementation of annex B to the resolution, as well as information-gathering from media sources. As we have stated on previous occasions,

the findings or recommendations emanating from such non-mandated activities lack credibility and legitimacy;

(j) The report contains totally false and baseless allegations from, inter alia, the United States, the Israeli regime, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which have publicly announced their intentions and policies to ruin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and resolution 2231 (2015). The report, however, provides nearly no information on their own non-compliance with the resolution as well as their efforts to prevent the implementation of the resolution by other States. The Secretariat chose to ignore even the very basic information that the Islamic Republic of Iran has officially provided in this regard in the past six months (S/2018/634, S/2018/967, S/2018/988, S/2018/1054, S/2018/1057 and S/2018/1073);

(k) The Security Council resolutions that were terminated in accordance with resolution 2231 (2015) have no standing anymore, and the reference to them in the report of the Secretary-General is legally not sound and politically not wise. It is a deviation from the impartial and professional manner in which the report has to be prepared;

(l) There is a call in annex B to resolution 2231 (2015) upon Iran "not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons" for a limited time period. This wording is a deliberate compromise following lengthy negotiations in order to exclude Iran's defensive missile programme that is "designed" exclusively for conventional warheads. The public statements and testimonies of those directly involved in the nuclear negotiations, including from the United States, as well as the subsequent practice of the Security Council,[1] further confirm this fact. In the same vein, the Secretariat shall, in reporting on the implementation of relevant paragraphs, seriously refrain from making any reference to irrelevant criteria or definitions. It is of utmost importance, as there are no related, internationally negotiated and multilaterally agreed definitions or criteria;

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the United States' irresponsible approach with respect to its multilateral obligations and international law, as well as its insolent disregard for multilateral instruments and institutions, are threatening international peace and security by undermining the rule of law and damaging the tenets of Charter-based multilateralism in all its aspects. The Security Council should shoulder its historical responsibility and stand up against political bullying before it becomes too late.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eshagh **Al Habib**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

[1] S/2016/649, para. 21.

United Nations S/2018/1109

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 December 2018

Original: English

Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2185 (2014) and 2382 (2017) on United Nations Policing, as well as relevant resolutions such as resolutions 1265 (1999) and 1894 (2009) on the protection of civilians, 1325 (2000) and 2242 (2015) on women, peace and security, 2086 (2013) on peacekeeping operations, 2151 (2014) on security sector reform, 1645 (2005), 2282 (2016) and 2413 (2018) on post-conflict peacebuilding, 2436 (2018) on performance in peacekeeping operations, and statements of its President such as the statements of 6 October 2004 (S/PRST/2004/34), 29 June 2010 (S/PRST/2010/11), 19 January 2012 (S/PRST/2012/1) and 21 February 2014 (S/PRST/2014/5) on the rule of law and of 12 February 2010 (S/PRST/2010/2) and 14 May 2018 (S/PRST/2018/10) on peacekeeping operations, as well as the statement of 14 July 1997 (S/PRST/1997/38) on civilian police,

Reaffirming its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Stressing the primary responsibility of States for the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as for the protection of civilians and the important contribution that United Nations assistance to police, justice and correction areas in peacekeeping and special political missions can provide throughout the conflict cycle, where and as mandated, including through the protection of civilians, capacity-building and development efforts of host-State police, justice and corrections institutions, and noting the relevance of its contribution when considering the broader reform of the peace and security pillar,

Reaffirming that lasting peace is not achieved nor sustained by military and technical engagements alone, but through political solutions and strongly convinced that such political solutions should guide the design and deployment of United Nations peacekeeping operations,

Reaffirming its commitment to upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including its commitment to and respect for the principles of political independence, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all States in conducting all peacekeeping activities and the need for States to comply with their obligations under international law,

Further reaffirming the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the

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mandate, and recognizing that the mandate of each peacekeeping operation is specific to the needs of the situation concerned and underlining that the mandates that it authorizes are consistent with the basic principles, and reiterating that the Security Council expects full delivery of the mandates it authorizes,

Reiterating the need for a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and sustainable peace, which comprises operational and structural measures for the prevention of armed conflict and addresses its root causes, including through strengthening the rule of law at international and national levels and promoting sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation, good governance, democracy, gender equality and respect for, and protection of, human rights,

Noting the important role United Nations assistance to police, justice and corrections institutions can play, where mandated, in strengthening the rule of law and security sector reform and *reaffirming* the lead role of national authorities in progressing the reform of police, justice and corrections institutions as part of wider rule of law and security sector reform efforts, including in dedicating national resources towards national police, justice and corrections institutions, and monitoring the impact of police, justice and corrections reform, and *recognizing* that the political leadership and political will of national authorities are critical in this regard and success necessitates national ownership,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of national governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for peacebuilding and sustaining peace, *emphasizing* that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the Government and all other national stakeholders, and in this regard, *emphasizing* that inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account, and *stressing* that civil society can play an important role in advancing efforts to sustain peace,

Underlining the importance of the support to the strengthening of rule of law institutions of the host country that is provided, where mandated, by a number of peacekeeping operations and special political missions within the scope of their mandates, working in coordination with relevant United Nations entities, and *recalling* that multidimensional peacekeeping missions may be mandated to provide such support in helping national authorities develop critical rule of law priorities and strategies to address the needs of police, judicial institutions and corrections system and critical interlinkages thereof, with a view to supporting the states' ability to provide critical functions in these fields, and as a vital contribution to building peace and ending impunity,

Welcoming efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General to mobilize all partners and stakeholders in support of more effective United Nations peacekeeping through his initiative "Action for Peacekeeping," and *welcomes* the political commitments to continue to strengthen the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, amongst others through joint platforms,

Reiterating the importance of enhancing police, justice, and corrections services in host countries and *emphasizing* the importance of the rule of law at the national level as one of the key element of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding,

Stressing the critical importance of strengthening police, justice and corrections elements in peacekeeping operations and special political missions, where and as mandated, to assist national governments in stabilizing the situation, extend State

authority, end impunity, protect civilians, tackle the underlying causes of conflict, prevent relapse into conflict and build and sustain peace,

Noting that host-State policing institutions are often the primary link between the government and communities on security issues, and *reiterating* that professional, effective, accountable and accessible law enforcement, corrections and judicial institutions are necessary to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and national development,

Stressing the importance of United Nations support to strengthen police, justice and corrections institutions, including to provide, as appropriate, a recourse to victims through redress for past violations and abuses, and also to promote national reconciliation, lay the groundwork for durable voluntary return of displaced persons and to help prevent a relapse into conflict, where and as mandated in UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions,

Acknowledging the role of Police Components as an integral part of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, and the increasingly diverse and complex policing-related tasks in the mandates of such operations and missions, where mandated,

Recognizing the indispensable role of women in United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions, including the critical role that women play in all peace and security efforts, including by providing diverse perspectives which can assist in building trust with local communities and stressing the need to increase their full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in decision-making in host-States with regard to policing and the rule of law,

Welcoming the efforts to incentivize greater numbers of women in police and civilians deployed and appointed to senior positions in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and efforts to review the obstacles preventing women's recruitment and professional advancement; *taking note* in this regard of the Secretary-General's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity which tasks relevant United Nations entities, in consultation with Police-Contributing countries, to develop a separate, dedicated strategy on this matter,

Stressing the importance of the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations entities through the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections arrangement (Global Focal Point) in enhancing internal coherence and strategic coordination to strengthen a comprehensive United Nations approach to police, justice and corrections assistance,

Underlining the importance of close coordination of the range of United Nations police, justice and corrections activities, both at headquarters and in the field, in particular between the Security Council-mandated missions and the United Nations Country Team, as appropriate, and encouraging relevant United Nations entities mandated to undertake police, justice and corrections activities to work through existing coordination mechanisms, as appropriate,

1. *Underscores* the importance of integrating UN support to police, justice and corrections areas into the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions from the outset, as necessary, to assist national governments in the re-establishment or restoration of police, justice and corrections services to support achievement of peacekeeping operations and special political missions' strategic goals, where and as mandated, and to address the root causes of each conflict, including through strengthening the rule of law at national and international levels;

2. *Reaffirms* its support for the development of a comprehensive and integrated performance policy framework that identifies clear standards of

performance for evaluating all United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel working in and supporting peacekeeping operations and special political missions that facilitates effective and full implementation of mandates, and includes comprehensive and objective methodologies based on clear and well defined benchmarks to ensure accountability for underperformance and incentives and recognition for outstanding performance;

3. *Urges* all police-contributing countries to meet UN performance standards for personnel, training, and equipping, and to support the effective implementation of mandated tasks while maintaining the highest standards of conduct, further urges all civilian mission components and Secretariat staff supporting peacekeeping operations to meet performance standards and comply with staff regulations, notes the efforts of the Secretary-General to develop a comprehensive performance assessment system to help police-contributing countries meet United Nations performance standards, and calls upon all stakeholders to support these efforts;

4. *Underscores* the importance of focusing United Nations assistance to police, justice and corrections institutions in peacekeeping operations and special political missions on both the rapid re-establishment of essential services to respond to people's justice and security needs, and longer term institutional reform based on transparency, efficiency and sustainability, where and as mandated, and *calls on* the Secretary-General to make sure that planning of United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions with police, justice and corrections mandates are based on a thorough analysis of the context, capacities and needs of host-States;

5. *Also reiterates its resolve* to give peacekeeping operations and special political missions clear, credible, and achievable mandates matched by appropriate resources on police, justice and corrections tasks, where and as mandated, that include realistic benchmarks, results and improved accountability for comprehensive UN support, in a manner consistent with applicable international law;

6. *Reaffirms* its ongoing efforts to review peacekeeping operations to ensure maximum effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping operations and special political missions on the ground, and *requests* the Secretary-General to:

(a) enhance the coherence, performance and effectiveness of United Nations assistance to police, justice and corrections institutions in peacekeeping missions and special political missions;

(b) ensure coordinated analyses, planning, and programmes, as appropriate, between the UN Country Team and other UN actors;

(c) ensure timely planning and benchmarks for mission transitions, including strategies to increase capacity of the UN Country Team and host government police, justice and corrections institutions, as appropriate; and

(d) ensure data streams related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, including peacekeeping performance data, to include police, justice and corrections institutions, are centralized to improve analytics and evaluation of mission operations, based on clear and well identified benchmarks;

7. *Calls on* the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and on Resident Coordinators, as appropriate, to ensure, when United Nations Peacekeeping operations or special political missions are mandated, full coherence of police, justice and corrections assistance, avoid fragmentation and maximize integration of efforts, including through joint work;

8. *Reaffirms* the importance of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding, whereby the responsibility for sustaining peace is broadly shared by the Government and all other national stakeholders, and *recognizes* that United

Nations police, justice and corrections components can contribute to building and sustaining peace by supporting host-State police, justice and corrections institutions, as mandated;

9. *Reaffirms* the importance of adhering to the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in providing United Nations peacekeeping-related support to non-United Nations security forces in line with the Charter of the United Nations;

10. *Stresses* the need for host countries to promote accountability for crimes within their domestic justice systems, consistent with applicable international obligations, including under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and *encourages* host countries to exercise their jurisdiction in addressing impunity including through strengthening their police, justice and corrections institutions;

11. *Acknowledges that* joint planning and delivery of assistance to police, justice and corrections areas by various United Nations entities through the Global Focal Point have created greater effectiveness and efficiencies in peacekeeping operations and special political missions;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine ways to strengthen United Nations assistance to police, justice and corrections institutions to host countries and submit recommendations, for the consideration of the Security Council, taking into account the challenging, complex and evolving nature of current conflicts;

13. *Requests* the United Nations to emphasize prevention and response to conflict related sexual and gender-based violence and support to victims, including in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes and security sector reform, and, with the consent of the host government, assist national authorities to strengthen the rule of law, for instance through the work of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict;

14. *Recalls* its resolution 2242 (2015) and its request that the Secretary-General initiate, in collaboration with Member States, a revised strategy to double the numbers of women in police contingents of United Nations peacekeeping operations by 2020 and further requests that this strategy ensures the full, effective and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of peacekeeping, and that this revised strategy is presented to the Security Council by March 2019;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this Resolution in relevant peacekeeping and peacebuilding reports.

United Nations S/2018/1110

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 December 2018

Original: English

Kuwait and Sweden: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2042 (2012), 2043 (2012), 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2175 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2209 (2015), 2235 (2015), 2254 (2015), 2258 (2015), 2268 (2016), 2286 (2016), 2332 (2016), 2336 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) and its Presidential Statements of 3 August 2011 (S/PRST/2011/16), 21 March 2012 (S/PRST/2012/6), 5 April 2012 (S/PRST/2012/10), 2 October 2013 (S/PRST/2013/15), 24 April 2015 (S/PRST/2015/10) and 17 August 2015 (S/PRST/2015/15),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Syria and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing outrage at the unacceptable level of violence and the killing of hundreds of thousands of people, including tens of thousands of child casualties, as a result of the Syrian conflict,

Reiterating its grave distress at the continued devastating humanitarian situation in Syria and at the fact that urgent humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, is required by more than 13 million people in Syria, of whom 6.2 million are internally displaced, including Palestine refugees, and more than 1 million people are still living in hard-to-reach areas,

Gravely concerned at the insufficient implementation of its resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) and *recalling* in this regard the legal obligations of all parties under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as all the relevant decisions of the Security Council, including by ceasing all attacks against civilians and civilian objects, including those involving attacks on schools and medical facilities, the indiscriminate use of weapons, including artillery, barrel bombs and air strikes, indiscriminate shelling by mortars, car bombs, suicide attacks and tunnel bombs, as well as the widespread use of torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary executions, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, as well as all grave violations and abuses committed against children,

Noting the progress made in taking back areas of Syria from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Daesh) and Al-Nusrah Front (ANF) but *expressing its grave concern* that areas remain under their control and about the negative impact of their presence, violent extremist ideology and actions on stability in Syria and the region, including the devastating humanitarian impact on the civilians

populations which has led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people and the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage, *reaffirming* its resolve to address all aspects of the threat posed by ISIL (also known as Daesh), ANF and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, as determined by the United Nations Security Council and as may further be agreed by the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) and endorsed by the UN Security Council and *calling for* the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2249 (2015), 2253 (2015), 2347 (2017), 2354 (2017), 2368 (2017) and 2370 (2017),

Expressing grave concern also at the movement of foreign terrorist fighters and other terrorists and terrorist groups into and out of Syria and reiterating its call on all States to take steps, consistent with international law, to prevent and suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to ISIL, ANF and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with ISIL or Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, as determined by the United Nations Security Council, and as may further be agreed by the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) and endorsed by the UN Security Council,

Reaffirming that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Syrian authorities to protect the population in Syria and *reiterating* that parties to armed conflict must take all feasible steps to protect civilians and *recalling* in this regard its demand that all parties to armed conflict comply fully with the obligations applicable to them under international law related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including journalists, media professionals and associated personnel,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of all forms of violence and intimidation to which those participating in humanitarian operations are continue to be exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of their assets and its urging of all parties involved in an armed conflict to promote the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel, including medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties and United Nations and its associated personnel and their assets, *expressing* its ongoing admiration at the dedication and commitment of the Syrian Red Crescent volunteers and other humanitarian workers operating in deeply challenging conditions and *urging* all parties to take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, those of its specialised agencies and all other personnel engaged in humanitarian relief activities,

Noting that the United Nations and their implementing partners reached on average 5.4 million people with humanitarian aid each month in 2018 and that life-saving assistance delivered across borders represented a vital part of this, including the delivery of food assistance for on average 1 million people every month in 2018; and since the start of operations in 2014, non-food items for 6 million people; health assistance through 25 million treatments and water and sanitation supplies for over 5 million people,

Reiterating its grave concern at all instances of hindrances to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance, *noting* that ISIL (also known as Daesh), ANF and all other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, are hindering the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance and are responsible for preventing aid delivery through deliberate interference and obstruction,

Reiterating further its grave concern at the continuing impediments to the delivery of sustained, needs-based humanitarian assistance across the country through the most direct routes, including to hard-to-reach areas and across conflict lines,

Expressing grave concern that access to medical care continues to be severely restricted and *reiterating* the need to respect the principle of medical neutrality, facilitate free passage to all areas for medical personnel, equipment, transport and supplies, including surgical items,

Reaffirming the need to support the United Nations and their implementing partners in their efforts to expand the delivery of humanitarian assistance to reach all people in need in Syria and further *reaffirming* its decision in resolution 2165 (2014) that all Syrian parties to the conflict shall enable the immediate and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance directly to people throughout Syria, by the United Nations and their implementing partners, on the basis of United Nations assessments of need and devoid of any political prejudices and aims, including by immediately removing all impediments to the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General of 19 June 2018 (S/2018/617) on the Review of the United Nations Cross-Border Operations and *further taking note* of ongoing efforts to implement the recommendations contained therein, and *stressing* the need to ensure that the delivery of humanitarian aid and services, including at the stage of distribution, is impartial, non-discriminatory and needs-based and that those most in need are beneficiaries of such aid and services, without misappropriation,

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the United Nations monitoring mechanism in monitoring shipments and confirming their humanitarian nature, in accordance with resolutions 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016) and 2393 (2017) and *commending* the mechanism's efforts in facilitating cross-border delivery of humanitarian aid by the United Nations and their implementing partners, *emphasising* the importance to further robust monitoring of the humanitarian nature of UN relief consignments and their delivery inside Syria and *encouraging* the United Nations and their implementing partners to continue to take steps to scale up humanitarian deliveries throughout the country, notably into hard-to-reach areas,

Reiterating the need for all parties to respect and uphold the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance, *emphasising* the importance of upholding the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, in the provision of humanitarian assistance and *recalling* also the importance of humanitarian deliveries reaching their intended beneficiaries,

Noting the role that ceasefire agreements which are consistent with humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law can play in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance in order to help save civilian lives, *reiterating* its call upon all parties to respect and fulfil their commitments to existing ceasefire agreements, as well as the full implementation of resolution 2268 (2016) and 2401 (2018), as a step towards a comprehensive nation-wide ceasefire and *emphasising* that humanitarian access must be part of these efforts in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Expressing grave concern at the more than 5.6 million refugees, including more than 4.2 million women and children, who have fled Syria as a result of ongoing violence,

Reiterating its deep appreciation for the significant and admirable efforts that have been made by the countries of the region, notably Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, to accommodate Syrian refugees and mindful of the immense costs and social challenges incurred by these countries as a consequence of the crisis,

Recalling the need to create conditions throughout the country and facilitate the safe, voluntary and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their home areas in Syria, in accordance with international law, including applicable provisions of the Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, taking into account the interests of those countries hosting refugees,

Calling upon the international community to increase their assistance to Syria by providing additional humanitarian aid, *noting with concern* that the international response to the Syrian and regional crisis continues to fall short of meeting the needs as assessed by host governments and the United Nations, therefore *urging once again* all Member States, based on burden-sharing principles, to support the United Nations and the countries of the region, including by adopting medium and long-term responses to alleviate the impact on communities, providing increased, flexible and predictable funding as well as increasing resettlement efforts and *noting* the second conference on supporting the future of Syria and the region held in Brussels in April 2018, co-chaired by the European Union and the United Nations,

Calling for humanitarian mine action to be accelerated as a matter of urgency throughout Syria,

Strongly condemning the arbitrary detention and torture of individuals in Syria, notably in prisons and detention facilities, as well as the kidnappings, abductions, hostage-taking and forced disappearances and *demanding* the immediate end of these practices and the release of all arbitrarily detained persons starting with women and children, as well as sick, wounded, persons with disabilities and elderly persons and United Nations and humanitarian personnel and journalists,

Noting with grave concern that impunity in Syria contributes to widespread violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, stressing the need to end impunity for these violations and abuses and re-emphasising in this regard that those who have committed or are otherwise responsible for such violations and abuses in Syria must be brought to justice,

Emphasising that the humanitarian situation will continue to deteriorate further in the absence of a political solution to the Syrian conflict in line with resolution 2254 (2015) and *calling upon* all parties to make progress in this regard and to undertake confidence-building measures and *recognising* the efforts by the Office of the UN Special Envoy and the international community, including within the Astana framework, to advance the early release of any arbitrarily detained persons, particularly women and children, and handover of the bodies as well as the identification of missing persons,

Determining that the devastating humanitarian situation in Syria continues to constitute a threat to peace and security in the region,

Underscoring that Member States are obligated under Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations to accept and carry out the Council's decisions,

1. *Calls upon* all parties to ensure principled, sustained and improved humanitarian assistance to Syria in 2019;

2. *Reiterates its demand* that all parties, in particular the Syrian authorities, immediately comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law as applicable and *further demands* the full and immediate implementation of all provisions of all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) and *recalls* that some of the violations and abuses committed in Syria may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity;

3. *Decides* to renew the decisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) for a further period of twelve months, that is, until 10 January 2020;

4. *Further demands* that all parties allow safe, unimpeded and sustained access for United Nations' and their implementing partners' humanitarian convoys, including medical and surgical supplies, to all requested areas and populations according to United Nations' assessment of need in all parts of Syria;

5. *Reiterates* that the situation will continue to deteriorate further in the absence of a political solution to the Syrian conflict and *recalls* its demand for the full and immediate implementation of resolution 2254 (2015) to facilitate a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition, in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué as set forth in the ISSG Statements, in order to end the conflict in Syria and *stresses* again that the Syrian people will decide the future of Syria;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Council monthly and to provide a report on a regular basis, at least every 60 days, on the implementation of resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017), 2401 (2018) and this resolution and on compliance by all relevant parties in Syria and further requests the Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports overall trends in UN cross-line and cross-border humanitarian access and detailed information on the humanitarian assistance delivered through UN humanitarian cross-border operations as authorised by resolution 2165 (2014), including on the number of beneficiaries, locations of aid deliveries at district-level and the volume and nature of items delivered;

7. *Reaffirms* that it will take further measures under the Charter of the United Nations in the event of non-compliance with this resolution or resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018);

8. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2018/1111

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 December 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 14 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Serbia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to request that an urgent meeting of the Security Council of the United Nations be convened to consider the decision of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Priština to transform the Kosovo Security Force into armed forces.

This decision has been taken in gross violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), which provides for the deployment of an international security presence, authorized to establish a safe environment for all people in Kosovo. No establishment of any other armed force is provided for in the resolution. This act of blatant violation of the documents of the United Nations represents a serious threat to regional peace and security and runs a risk of spreading instability far beyond the region.

In submitting the request, I would appreciate it if a representative of the Serbian Government were allowed, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, to participate in the meeting and make a statement.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Milan **Milanović**

18-21937 (E) 141218

Please recycle

United Nations A/73/659–S/2018/1112

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
14 December 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-third session
Agenda item 67
The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 10 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith an address by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to the United Nations and other international and regional organizations with regard to another act of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine (see annex).*

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 67, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

18-21958 (E) 191218

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Annex to the letter dated 10 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Address by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine to the United Nations, the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the GUAM Parliamentary Assembly and national parliaments with regard to another act of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine

On 25 November 2018, the armed forces of the Russian Federation committed an armed attack against the military cutters of the Naval Forces of Ukraine, which made a planned sea transfer from the port of Odesa to the port of Mariupol in full compliance with the provisions of the existing multilateral and bilateral international treaties and rules of navigation.

Such actions of the Russian Federation constitute an act of armed aggression against Ukraine, as defined by Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX) "Definition of aggression" of 14 December 1974. They also violated Articles 2 and 21 of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

By committing these actions the Russian Federation has furthered its armed aggression against Ukraine, started on 20 February 2014 and resulted in the illegal occupation of the part of the territory of Ukraine – the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine:

expresses its resolute protest over the aggressive actions of the Russian Federation with regard to the armed attack and seizure of the Ukrainian military cutters "Berdyansk", "Nikopol" and tugboat "Yany Kapu", wounding their *crew members and taking them as prisoners of war*;

demands from the Russian Federation to provide urgent medical assistance to the wounded Ukrainian sailors, to ensure their immediate and safe return to Ukraine, as well as to ensure return of illegally seized military assets and compensation for losses;

rest full responsibility upon the Kremlin's regime for escalating tensions in the Azov Sea, the Black Sea and the Kerch Strait, which marks a continuation of the armed occupation of Crimea and certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, as well as for undermining the peaceful settlement of the Ukrainian-Russian armed conflict;

calls upon the international community to take efficient measures to halting Russian aggression on sea and on land, including by introducing new sanctions and strengthening existing ones until Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is fully restored within internationally recognized borders;

invites international organizations to send observers to the Black Sea, the Azov Sea and the Kerch Strait, and also invites maritime states to send military vessels to these waters to prevent further escalation of tensions by the Russian Federation;

calls upon international partners to strengthen military and other assistance to Ukraine in order to protect its territorial integrity and sovereignty;

calls upon the international community to respond adequately to the challenges and threats posed by the Russian Federation, given the fact that the policy of appeasement has already led to the occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine, notably the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions;

deems it outrageous, that the Kussian Federation ignored the firm stance of the international community in condemning the fake "elections" organized by this country in the temporarily occupied territories in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine, and calls for the annulment of their "results". The Russian Federation is fully responsible for these illegal actions and their devastating effect for the peace process;

emphasizes that the construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is not in the interest of Europe, but in the interest of the Russian Federation; and poses a threat, inter alia in the security domain, for the entire region of the Baltic and Northern Europe;

stresses that the impunity for aggressive policy and actions of the Russian Federation can lead to global consequences.

United Nations S/2018/1113

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 December 2018

Original: English

Identical letters dated 14 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On Sunday evening, 9 December 2018, Hamas-affiliated Palestinian terrorist Salih Omar Barghouti opened fire in a drive-by shooting, injuring seven Israeli civilians, including Shira Ish-Ran, a 21-year-old mother who was 30 weeks pregnant. Critically wounded, Ms. Ish-Ran underwent surgery, including delivering her baby via emergency C-section. Although Ms. Ish-Ran is now stable, her baby did not survive. These brutal attacks were perpetrated and praised by Hamas, the internationally recognized terrorist organization. They underscore, more than ever, the need for the relevant United Nations bodies to take action and to condemn Hamas and its actions unequivocally.

Yesterday, 13 December 2018, a 26-year-old Palestinian terrorist from Qalandia, armed with a knife, attacked two Israeli police officers on duty in the Old City of Jerusalem, and two Israeli Defense Force (IDF) soldiers were killed and two others severely injured in a shooting attack at a bus stop in Givat Assaf. The perpetrators of these terror attacks fled the scene. Later, IDF soldiers foiled an attempted ramming attack near Ramallah-El Bira. This morning, 14 December 2018, near the village of Beit El, a Palestinian terrorist stabbed an IDF soldier and hit him in the head with a stone, causing serious injury.

Fatah has praised these attacks and their perpetrators on social media, calling for a drawing of the map "with the blood of the martyrs". Since September 2015, 76 innocent people have been killed and 1,168 wounded as a result of Palestinian terrorism. The Palestinian Authority (PA) has inspired these perpetrators, many of them very young, with its vicious incitement campaign. Under Mahmoud Abbas, the PA spends over seven per cent of its annual budget on monthly salaries to Palestinian terrorists and their families. This "pay-to-slay" policy encourages the Palestinians to terrorize and target innocent Israelis, proving that the PA leadership's calls for tolerance and peace are nothing more than subversive and hollow rhetoric.

Abbas' actions demonstrably undermine stability in the region. In response, Israel reserves the right to protect its citizens and its sovereignty.

I call on the Security Council to recognize these horrific attacks as terrorism, to condemn them immediately and to take action against the Palestinian Authority's policy of incentivizing terrorism. Accordingly, the Security Council should convene a meeting to discuss the PA's "pay-to-slay" policy and its so-called "Martyrs Fund".

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-21980 (E) 181218

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United Nations A/ES-10/804–S/2018/1114

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
17 December 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 14 December 2018 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I am writing today to draw urgent attention to the dangerous deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to act in a lawless and aggressive manner, fuelling a new cycle of violence, intensifying inflammatory rhetoric and incitement, causing more civilian casualties, including by the perpetration of extrajudicial killings, and further entrenching its illegal colonial occupation, in grave violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

As the present letter is being written, Israeli occupying forces continue to carry out violent military raids in Palestinian villages, towns, cities and refugee camps, terrorizing the civilian population, harming civilian life, and arresting and detaining more people, especially young males. In recent days, several Palestinian civilians have been hunted down and killed by Israeli occupying forces in punitive, extrajudicial military operations aimed at exacting revenge on the population following the killing of three Israeli soldiers. In just a 24-hour timespan, Israeli occupying forces carried out the execution of four Palestinian civilians: Ashraf Naalweh (age 23), Salah Omar Barghouti (age 29), Hamdan Tawfiq al-Ardah (age 60) and Majd Muteir.

These operations have been carried out in conjunction with countless raids by the occupying forces and armed, extremist settlers, who persist in their rampages under the protection of the occupying forces with absolute impunity for their attacks on the defenceless Palestinian civilian population and the destruction they are systematically and deliberately causing in their terror campaign. This has included attacks on various villages, such as in the Nablus area or in Ayn Yabrud, in the occupied West Bank, where settlers opened gunfire on Palestinian homes, all while being accompanied by the occupying Israeli army. In several instances, attacks by settler militias have provoked clashes with Palestinian civilians seeking to defend and protect themselves from the occupation's barbarity.

Please recycle

In this regard, we must recall that such brutal attacks against the Palestinian civilian population constitute, inter alia, grave breaches of article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which clearly states that "no protected person may be punished for an offense he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited. Pillage is prohibited. Reprisals against protected persons and their property are prohibited".

In addition to the occupying Power's military raids, inflammatory rhetoric and incitement by the Israeli government and military continue to foster a dangerous environment, further encouraging violence towards the Palestinian people and their leadership, including continuing hateful rhetoric specifically targeting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and threatening his life. Such incitement and provocation must be condemned and must be halted by the Israeli government, which is responsible for any harm done to President Abbas and the people of Palestine.

At the same time, I must draw your attention to the occupying Power's continuing illegal colonization of occupied Palestinian land, using every pretext and excuse, including as a means of collective punishment for acts of violence, which cannot in any way justify this unlawful behaviour, including in particular in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. In this regard, the Israeli Prime Minister has cynically and provocatively announced his intentions to entrench thousands of Israeli settlement units in the occupied West Bank through so-called "legalization" measures and is pursuing the construction of 82 new housing units in the illegal settlement of Ofra, near where certain incidents of violence occurred earlier this week, as well as two new industrial zones near the illegal settlements of Avne Hefetz and Beitar Elit.

As we approach the second anniversary of the Security Council's adoption of resolution 2334 (2016), it is also imperative to recall the Council's explicit reaffirmation that Israel's settlement activity constitutes a "flagrant violation" of international law and has "no legal validity" and the Council's demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all its legal obligation in this regard. Israel's contempt of the Council cannot go unanswered, for it is apparent that failure to hold the occupying Power accountable will only embolden it to continue its illegal settlement campaign throughout the Palestinian land, regardless of international law, United Nations resolutions and the will of the international community.

We must also recall that, just one week ago, on 6 December, the General Assembly resoundingly reaffirmed the international consensus in this regard with the adoption of resolution 73/89, presented by Ireland and entitled "Comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East". In that resolution, the Assembly explicitly reiterated its call for "the achievement, without delay, of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016) of 23 December 2016, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, including of East Jerusalem", reaffirming the longstanding, internationally endorsed basis for a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as the international community's unwavering support for the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders.

We call urgent attention to the above-mentioned Israeli violations – of illegal settlement construction expansion, killing of Palestinian civilians, collective punishment of the Palestinian population and incitement against the Palestinian people and their leadership – and the dangerous consequences should they persist.

The international community, including the Security Council, must act responsibly to convey a clear message to Israel, the occupying Power, that all such illegal policies and practices must be ceased and that Israel will be held fully accountable for its failure to comply with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. We appeal to the Security Council to act with urgency to address this critical situation, in line with its duties under the Charter of the United Nations and its own resolutions, including in particular resolution 2334 (2016), including the necessary measures to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population under this cruel and illegal Israel occupation.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 652 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 11 December 2018 (A/ES-10/803-S/2018/1107) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all those war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations S/2018/1115

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 December 2018
English
Original: French

Letter dated 13 December 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 2444 (2018), adopted on 14 November 2018, concerning the situation in Somalia. Under paragraph 11 of the resolution, the Council decided to establish a Panel of Experts on Somalia with effect until 15 December 2019.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that, having consulted the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia, I have appointed the following experts:

Mr. Mohamed Babiker, humanitarian (Sudan)
Mr. Jay Bahadur, regional (Canada)
Ms. Nazanine Moshiri, armed groups (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Brian O'Sullivan, armed groups/natural resources (Ireland)
Mr. Matthew Rosbottom, finance (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Mr. Richard Zabot, arms (France)

I have designated Mr. Jay Bahadur to serve as Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on Somalia.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

18-21977 (E) 171218 171218

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United Nations S/2018/1116

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 December 2018
English
Original: French

Letter dated 14 December 2018 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2018. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
Chair
Security Council Committee pursuant to
resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia

18-21271 (E) 191218 020119

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[Original: English]

Report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea from 1 January to 14 November 2018 and of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia from 14 November to 31 December 2018

I. Introduction

1. The present report covers the work of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) concerning Somalia and Eritrea for the period from 1 January to 14 November 2018, when the Security Council adopted resolution 2444 (2018). By paragraph 9 of that resolution, the Council decided that the Committee should be known as the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia. Consequently, the present report covers the work of the renamed Committee from 14 November to 31 December 2018.

2. The Bureau of both Committees consisted of Kairat Umarov (Kazakhstan) as Chair and the representatives of Equatorial Guinea and Kuwait as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 733 (1992), the Security Council imposed a general and complete arms embargo on Somalia, and by its resolution 751 (1992), the Council established a committee to oversee the implementation of the embargo. Subsequently, in its resolutions 1356 (2001), 1425 (2002), 1744 (2007), 1772 (2007), 1846 (2008), 1851 (2008), 1916 (2010), 2060 (2012), 2093 (2013), 2111 (2013), 2142 (2014), 2182 (2014), 2244 (2015), 2317 (2016), 2385 (2017) and 2444 (2018), the Council introduced exemptions to and further defined the scope of the embargo.

4. By its resolution 1425 (2002), the Security Council established the Panel of Experts on Somalia, which was succeeded by the Monitoring Group established by its resolution 1519 (2003). By paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 of its resolution 1844 (2008), the Council imposed targeted measures (a travel ban, an asset freeze and a targeted arms embargo) on individuals and entities designated by the Committee. In the same resolution, the Council also introduced certain exemptions to those measures. In its resolution 2036 (2012), the Council imposed a ban on the direct or indirect import of charcoal from Somalia, whether or not the charcoal originated in Somalia. In its resolution 2093 (2013), the Council partially lifted the arms embargo for the development of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia.

5. In its resolution 1907 (2009), the Security Council imposed a two-way arms embargo on Eritrea, as well as targeted measures (a travel ban, an asset freeze and a targeted arms embargo) on individuals and entities designated by the Committee. The Council expanded the mandate of the Committee to enable it to oversee the implementation of those measures. The Monitoring Group, the name of which was changed to the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, was mandated to monitor, investigate and report on the implementation of the measures imposed in resolution 1907 (2009). In the same resolution, the Council also introduced certain exemptions to the targeted measures. On 5 December 2011, the Council adopted its resolution

2023 (2011), by which it expanded the restrictive measures concerning Eritrea in the areas of the "diaspora tax", the Eritrean mining sector and financial services.

6. In 2014, the Security Council renewed the partial lifting of the arms embargo for the development of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia on two occasions: in resolution 2142 (2014), for a period of six months, and in resolution 2182 (2014), until 30 October 2015. In its resolution 2182 (2014), the Council authorized, for a period of 12 months, Member States acting nationally or through voluntary multinational naval partnerships, such as "combined maritime forces", to interdict charcoal and arms being transported in violation of the sanctions measures in Somali territorial waters and on the high seas off the coast of Somalia, extending to and including the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf. The Council renewed the partial lifting of the arms embargo for the development of the security forces of the Federal Government of Somalia and the authorization for the maritime interdiction of arms and Somali charcoal in its resolutions 2244 (2015), 2317 (2016), 2385 (2017) and 2444 (2018), most recently until 15 November 2019.

7. In its resolution 2444 (2018), the Security Council terminated the sanctions regime on Eritrea established pursuant to its resolutions 1907 (2009), 2023 (2011), 2060 (2012) and 2111 (2013). In the same resolution, the Council modified the mandate of the Committee to oversee the measures relating to Somalia only and decided that the Committee should be known as the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia. The Council also terminated the mandate of the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea with effect from 16 December 2018 and established, with immediate effect until 15 December 2019, the Panel of Experts on Somalia, consisting of six experts and based in Nairobi. The mandate of the Panel of Experts includes the tasks of the Monitoring Group as they relate to Somalia.

8. Further background information on the Somalia sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

9. The Committee met nine times in informal consultations, on 15 January, 8 February, 20 April, 7 and 25 June, 20 July, 11 September and 1 and 12 October, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

10. During the informal consultations held on 15 January, the Chair introduced to the Committee the eight newly appointed members of the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, and the Coordinator of the Monitoring Group outlined some of the Group's priorities.

11. During the informal consultations held on 8 February, the Committee exchanged views with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Government of Somalia.

12. During the informal consultations held on 20 April, the Coordinator of the Monitoring Group provided the Group's midterm update to the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 48 of resolution 2385 (2017).

13. During the informal consultations held on 7 June, the Chair of the Committee gave a briefing on his visit to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia from 4 to 10 May 2018. The Committee also discussed the recommendations contained in the Chair's visit report and subsequently issued a press release containing a summary of the consultations.

14. During the informal consultations held on 25 June, the Committee discussed the recommendations made by the joint verification team of arms and ammunition in its most recent report, of 1 May 2018. The Federal Government of Somalia works jointly with Conflict Armament Research on the team.

15. During the informal consultations held on 20 July, the Committee received a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia on the security situation in Somalia, including the regional dimension, political developments and weapons and ammunition management.

16. During the informal consultations held on 11 September, the Committee received a briefing from the National Security Adviser to the President of the Federal Government of Somalia on the progress made by the Government on sanctions issues.

17. During the informal consultations held on 1 October, the Committee received a briefing from the Deputy Director of the Operations and Advocacy Division of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on the humanitarian situation in Somalia and impediments to the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

18. During the informal consultations held on 12 October, the Committee heard a presentation by the Monitoring Group on its final reports on Somalia and Eritrea, submitted pursuant to paragraph 48 of Security Council resolution 2385 (2017), and discussed the recommendations contained therein. The Committee also interacted with the delegations of Somalia and Eritrea. In accordance with paragraph 104 of the annex to the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507), the Committee issued a press release containing a brief summary of the meeting.

19. On 13 March, 30 July and 5 November, the Chair presented to the Security Council the 120-day briefings on the work of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 11 (g) of resolution 1844 (2008). The briefing of 30 July was given at a public meeting (see S/PV.8322).

20. From 4 to 10 May 2018, the Chair visited Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. A report on the visit was circulated to the members of the Committee on 30 May. The visit marked the Chair's first trip since 2010 to the Horn of Africa region.

21. On 25 September, on the sidelines of the high-level week of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, the Chair held a meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Eritrea, Osman Saleh Mohammed. On 5 October, the Chair facilitated and participated in a meeting between the Coordinator of the Monitoring Group and a senior political adviser to the President of Eritrea, Yemane Gebreab, at the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations. Both meetings contributed to the advancement of the process of lifting the sanctions on Eritrea.

22. On 25 June, the Committee sent two notes verbales to all Member States reminding them of their obligations to implement the charcoal ban and the arms embargoes, as set out in its Implementation Assistance Notices Nos. 1 and 2, respectively.

23. On 13 July, the Committee updated its Implementation Assistance Notice No. 2, which provides guidance to Member States on the arms embargo restrictions in place, to include some of the recommendations made by the joint verification team in its report of 1 May 2018.

24. The reports of the Federal Government of Somalia submitted to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 2385 (2017) were circulated to the Committee on 10 April and 4 October, respectively.

25. The Committee sent 36 communications to 11 Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

26. Exemptions to the arms embargo on Somalia are contained in paragraphs 7, 10 (g) and 11 (a) of resolution 2111 (2013), paragraph 4 of resolution 2142 (2014) and paragraph 14 of resolution 2444 (2018). Further Council requirements related to the partial lifting of the arms embargo for the Federal Government of Somalia are contained in paragraphs 6 and 7 of resolution 2142 (2014).

27. Exemptions to the asset freeze on Somalia are contained in paragraph 4 of resolution 1844 (2008).

28. Exemptions to the travel ban on Somalia are contained in paragraph 2 of resolution 1844 (2008).

29. The Committee received 20 notifications pursuant to paragraph 10 (g) of resolution 2111 (2013). The Committee also received 14 notifications pursuant to paragraph 2 of resolution 2385 (2017) and 1 pursuant to paragraph 14 of resolution 2444 (2018), of which 7 were from the Federal Government of Somalia. The Committee also received seven communications from the Federal Government of Somalia pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 7 of resolution 2142 (2014).

V. Sanctions list

30. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban, asset freeze and targeted arms embargo for the Somalia sanctions regime are set out in paragraph 8 of resolution 1844 (2008), paragraph 1 of resolution 2002 (2011), paragraph 23 of resolution 2036 (2012), paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolution 2060 (2012) and paragraph 43 of resolution 2093 (2013). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

31. On 8 March, the Committee added two individuals to its sanctions list.

32. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 15 individuals and one entity on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea and Panel of Experts on Somalia

33. On 13 April, in accordance with paragraph 48 of Security Council resolution 2385 (2017), the Monitoring Group provided its comprehensive midterm update to the Committee. On 2 October, in accordance with the same paragraph, the Monitoring Group provided its final reports on Somalia and on Eritrea to the Committee, which were transmitted to the Council on 8 November and issued as documents of the Council (S/2018/1002 and S/2018/1003, respectively). In accordance with its mandate, the Group also provided monthly updates to the Committee.

34. On 15 December, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2444 (2018), the Secretary-General appointed six individuals to serve on the Panel of Experts on Somalia, with expertise in arms, armed groups, armed groups/natural resources, finance, humanitarian affairs and regional issues (see S/2018/1115). The mandate of the Panel expires on 15 December 2019.

35. The Monitoring Group conducted visits to Bahrain, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Djibouti, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, the Netherlands, Oman, Qatar, Seychelles, Somalia, the Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America. In Somalia, members of the Group undertook visits to Baidoa, Belet Weyne, Bosaso, Buur Gaabo, Garoowe, Hobyo, Kismaayo and Mogadishu.

36. In pursuance of its mandate, the Monitoring Group, through the Secretariat, sent 133 letters to Member States, the Security Council, the Committee and international and national entities. The Panel of Experts on Somalia sent one letter to a Member State.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

37. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regimes and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regimes. The Division supported the visit of the Chair and members of the Committee to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia from 4 to 10 May.

38. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 5 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 14 August notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea (now the Panel of Experts on Somalia) and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

39. The Division continued to provide support to the Monitoring Group, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Group's midterm update submitted in April and its final reports submitted in October In August, the Secretariat circulated an updated handbook for sanctions experts, containing information to facilitate their work and to answer frequently asked questions that may arise during their term. The information is based on relevant United Nations rules and regulations, as well as practices and procedures established by the Secretariat.

40. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, as well as the further development in all official languages of the data model approved in 2011 by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 54 of resolution 2368 (2017).

41. Pursuant to resolution 2444 (2018), the Division provided assistance to activities related to the termination of the sanctions on Eritrea and the establishment of the Panel of Experts on Somalia, including the update of the Committee website and the recruitment of experts.

United Nations S/2018/1117

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 December 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 14 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for 11–14 December 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 14 December 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (11 December 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported eight incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: three in Aleppo, two in Ladhiqiyah, two in Idlib and one in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported 12 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 7 in Aleppo, 4 in Hama and 1 in Idlib.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides and Refugee Migration Monitoring has carried out one humanitarian operation: in Harjillah, Damascus Governorate, 500 food parcels with a total weight of 2.165 tons were delivered.

In total, 2,013 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,159.94 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged – it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (12 December 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 11 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 3 in Aleppo, 3 in Hama, 3 in Ladhiqiyah and 2 in Idlib.

The Turkish representative office has reported 11 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 4 in Aleppo, 4 in Hama and 3 in Idlib.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides and Refugee Migration Monitoring has carried out one humanitarian operation: in Qadimiyah, Aleppo Governorate, 500 food parcels with a total weight of 2.165 tons were delivered.

In total, 2,014 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,162.105 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged – it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (13 December 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 19 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 12 in Ladhiqiyah, 4 in Aleppo and 3 in Hama.

The Turkish representative office has reported seven incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: three in Idlib, two in Aleppo and two in Hama.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides and Refugee Migration Monitoring has carried out one humanitarian operation: in Qal'ah, Ladhiqiyah Governorate, 500 food parcels with a total weight of 2.165 tons were delivered.

In total, 2,015 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,164.27 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged – it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (14 December 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 19 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 7 in Idlib, 6 in Ladhiqiyah, 4 in Hama and 2 in Aleppo.

The Turkish representative office has reported eight incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: four in Ladhiqiyah, two in Hama, one in Aleppo and one Idlib.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours, the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides and Refugee Migration Monitoring has carried out one humanitarian operation: in Kafra', Hama Governorate, 500 food parcels with a total weight of 2.165 tons were delivered.

In total, 2,016 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,166.435 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged – it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/1118

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 December 2018
English
Original: French

Letter dated 14 December 2018 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2018. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Kairat **Umarov**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)

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[Original: English]

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011)

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Kairat Umarov (Kazakhstan) as Chair and the representatives of the Russian Federation and Uruguay as Vice-Chairs.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 1267 (1999), the Security Council imposed limited air and financial embargoes to compel the Taliban to cease providing sanctuary and training to terrorists, including Usama bin Laden. Between April 2000 and September 2001, the Committee listed 151 individuals and 10 entities associated with the Taliban (including the national airline and the Central Bank of Afghanistan) and 10 individuals associated with Al-Qaida. The Council modified the regime in resolutions 1333 (2000) and 1390 (2002) to impose three targeted measures (an asset freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo) against individuals and entities associated with the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Exemptions to the asset freeze and travel ban are available.

4. On 17 June 2011, the Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1988 (2011) and 1989 (2011), by which it split the regime in two, establishing one committee for the Taliban and another for Al-Qaida. The sanctions measures against the Taliban and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities were imposed in resolution 1988 (2011), followed by resolutions 2082 (2012), 2160 (2014) and 2255 (2015).

5. By its resolution 2255 (2015), the Security Council renewed the mandate of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team pursuant to resolutions 1526 (2004) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities until 17 December 2019. In its resolution 2255 (2015), the Council also provided for listed individuals and entities to request exemptions from the asset freeze and the travel ban through the focal point process established pursuant to resolution 1730 (2006), and requested the Secretary-General to publish the Committee's sanctions list in all official languages of the United Nations, as well as in the Dari and Pashtu languages.

6. Both the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011) and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities are supported by the Monitoring Team. The Monitoring Team consisted initially of 8 experts, and the number was increased to 10 experts in resolution 2253 (2015).

7. On 24 August 2017, the President of the Council issued a statement (S/PRST/2017/15) concluding that, after having reviewed the implementation of the measures outlined in resolution 2255 (2015), no further adjustments to the measures were necessary, and requesting the Monitoring Team to submit two annual reports, the first one by 30 April 2018.

8. Further background information on the Taliban sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

9. The Committee met four times in informal consultations, on 15 May, 14 June, 12 November and 3 December 2018, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures. The Committee also met four times in joint informal consultations with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, on 12 February, 13 April, 28 November and 21 December. In addition, the Committee met five times in joint informal consultations with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, on 12 and 22 February, 9 and 29 March and 20 December.

10. During the joint informal consultations held on 12 February with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committees heard a briefing by the Director of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. During the joint informal consultations held on the same day with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Committees heard a presentation by the Monitoring Team on its trip to Afghanistan from 17 to 31 October 2017.

11. During the joint informal consultations held on 22 February with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committees were briefed by the Deputy Director of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, Head of the Central Office of the National Anti Terrorism Committee and Deputy Chair of the Committee.

12. During the joint informal consultations held on 9 March with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committees heard a briefing by the Special Envoy of the President of the United States of America for the international counter-ISIL coalition.

13. During the joint informal consultations held on 29 March with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committees were briefed by the Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the Director of Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Morocco, in their capacities as co-chairs of the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

14. During the joint informal consultations held on 13 April with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL

(Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Committees received a briefing from the Monitoring Team on its trip to Pakistan from 24 to 25 January.

15. During the informal consultations held on 15 May, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Monitoring Team on its ninth report (S/2018/466), submitted in accordance with the presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/15), and discussed the recommendations contained therein. The Committee's decisions were published in a position paper on 12 June (S/2018/600).

16. During the informal consultations held on 14 June, the Committee discussed draft revised guidelines for the conduct of its work.

17. During the informal consultations held on 12 November, the Committee heard a briefing by the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations on the threat posed by the Taliban, as well as on the progress and challenges with regard to the peace process in Afghanistan, and by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan on developments in Afghanistan.

18. During the joint informal consultations held on 28 November with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the two Committees received a briefing from the Monitoring Team on its visits to Afghanistan in August and September.

19. During the informal consultation held on 3 December 2018, the Committee heard a briefing by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Representative for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries on indirect financing sources for the Taliban and selected listed individuals and entities and the efforts of the Office in Afghanistan.

20. During the joint informal consultations held on 20 December with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, the Committees heard a briefing by a senior official from the United States Department of State Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism.

21. During the joint informal consultations held on 21 December with the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, the Committees received a briefing from the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

22. On 2 August, pursuant to paragraph 46 of resolution 2368 (2017) and paragraph 56 of resolution 2255 (2015), the Chair, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee and of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, gave a briefing to interested Member States with a view to raising awareness of the two sanctions regimes, enhancing transparency and improving the dialogue between the Committees and the broader United Nations membership. The Coordinator of the Monitoring Team also briefed Member States.

23. On 17 December, the Chair briefed the Security Council on the activities of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 56 of resolution 2255 (2015), concurrently with the quarterly briefing given to the Council by the Special Representative of the

Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan on developments in Afghanistan.

24. On 3 December, the Committee revised and adopted the guidelines for the conduct of its work.

25. From 31 October to 1 November, the Chair visited Tashkent to attend the sixth international conference on cooperation in combating terrorism, organized by the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

26. From 7 to 8 November, the Chair visited Moscow to participate in the seventeenth Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations.

27. The Committee provided additional guidance to all Member States by issuing three notes verbales, dated 17 July and 14 and 28 December, on the ninth report of the Monitoring Team, the revision of the Committee's guidelines and the procedure for requesting exemptions from the travel ban measures, respectively.

28. The Committee sent 27 communications to nine Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

29. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006), and in paragraphs 17 and 18 of resolution 2255 (2015).

30. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1452 (2002), as amended by resolution 1735 (2006), and in paragraphs 19 to 22 of resolution 2255 (2015).

31. The Committee received and approved one request for exemption from the travel ban, which was submitted by the Russian Federation to enable one individual associated with the Taliban to participate in a meeting of the Moscow format on 9 November.

V. Sanctions list

32. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo are set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 2255 (2015). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work, and standard forms for listing and delisting are available on the Committee's website.

33. No entries were added to or removed from the list. The Committee approved an amendment to one existing entry on its sanctions list. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 135 individuals and five entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Monitoring Team

34. The Monitoring Team comprises 10 experts with broad experience in international counter-terrorism issues and specific experience in Afghanistan.

35. On 29 December 2017, in accordance with paragraph (d) of the annex to resolution 2255 (2015), the Monitoring Team submitted to the Committee, for its

approval, its travel plan for the period from January to June 2018. On 23 May, also in accordance with paragraph (d) of the annex to resolution 2255 (2015), the Monitoring Team submitted to the Committee, for its approval, its planned programme of work and travel plan for the period from September to December 2018.

36. On 30 April 2017, in accordance with the presidential statement (S/PRST/2017/15), the Monitoring Team provided its ninth report concerning the Taliban and other associated individuals and entities constituting a threat to the peace, stability and security of Afghanistan (S/2018/466), which was transmitted to the Security Council on 16 May and issued as a document of the Council.

37. On 29 December 2017 and 23 May 2018, the Monitoring Team submitted its combined biannual travel plans for the Committee and the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, in accordance with resolutions 2255 (2015) and 2368 (2017). The Monitoring Team conducted country visits to more than 42 Member States and participated in more than 148 regional and international conferences and other meetings, including the eighty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization, held in the United Arab Emirates, and the seventeenth Meeting of Heads of Special Services, Security Agencies and Law-Enforcement Organizations, held in the Russian Federation. The Team also organized three regional forums for security and intelligence services, in Austria, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania.

38. The Monitoring Team conducted three visits to Afghanistan, during which it visited the provinces of Badakhshan, Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Nangarhar and Paktya.

39. In December, the Monitoring Team held meetings with incoming members of the Security Council in order to raise awareness of the Team's mandate and work.

40. In pursuance of its mandate, the Monitoring Team, through the Secretariat, sent 300 letters to Member States, regional and international organizations, national entities and the Committee.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

41. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime. The Division supported the visits of the Chair to Uzbekistan, from 31 October to 1 November, and the Russian Federation, from 7 to 8 November.

42. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 5 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership of the roster of experts. In addition, notes verbales were sent to all Member States on 17 May and 3 October notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Monitoring Team and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements. The vacancy announcement on 3 October was also made available online at careers.un.org.

43. The Division continued to provide support to the Monitoring Team, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Team's report submitted in April. In August, the Secretariat circulated an updated handbook for sanctions experts, containing information to facilitate their work and to answer frequently asked questions that may arise during their term. The information is based on relevant United Nations rules and regulations, as well as practices and procedures established by the Secretariat.

44. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, as well as the further development in all official languages of the data model approved in 2011 by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 54 of resolution 2368 (2017).